



CRITICAL REFLECTIONS ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN HARYANA

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ABSTRACT

The emphasis on GDP per capita has been long cross examined as the sole measure of development. Does this parameter offers holistic insights about the distributional efficiency and welfare assessment at all levels? Considering it, the paper tries to interpret HDI 'with caution' and gauge into the trickle-down effect of development process in general with special reference to Haryana while analysing attainment and deprivation dimensions in particular.

KEYWORDS: Human Development, Deprivation, HDI, UNDP, Indicators

INTRODUCTION

Human development can be defined as a 'process of enlargement and enrichment of people's choices and lives'(UNDP, 1990). Sen (1995,1996,1999) stated that human development means to enhance people's capabilities. "Capabilities refers to a person's or group's freedom to promote or achieve valuable functionings"(Alkire, 2005).It is actually all about the people ,as they are the country's real wealth and about the careful management of resources to make them reach to all humans and for their well-being. Talking about the prime objective of development ;it is to build sustaining surroundings for people to have long and healthy life . As simple it may sound but usually the purpose got off track and defeated for the sake of accumulation of wealth and material things. Mahbub ul Haq (1995) emphasized that there could be five acceptable notions prevailing in all societies regarding the concept of human development. Firstly, people should be put in the centre of human development process and activities must be evaluated on the basis of how much degree of involvement is allowed to people. Secondly, human development has two facets ;one deals with genesis of human development and other to make use of those acquired capabilities .Third is to carefully handle the dissimilarity between ends and means of development. Forth, human development is way beyond economic aspects of society .And lastly, people act both ways; as means and ends in the process of human development. Regions with very high economic growth rate and income-level need not essentially have high social attainments. So it becomes fundamental to have a structure and advance development strategies that could strengthen the link between the two which further encourage the most efficient use of resources for promoting the well – being of the individuals .

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study is an initial attempt to critically examine the relevance of human development index and the indicators with special reference to Haryana .The first section discusses HDI ,limitations and its relevance as a development index

.Followed by human development scenario in the context of 15 major states of India for comparative perspective . Third section compares attainment indicator (Income) with deprivation indicators specific to Haryana state. The analysis relied on a comprehensive set of secondary data sources.

Human Development Index and limitations

Human development diffuses the centralization of the distribution of goods and services deprived individuals need and focus its abstraction on human decisions. When we invest in individuals we permit growth and empower them to seek many diverse life paths, thus building human capabilities. Accordingly, the most fundamental capabilities for human development are to live nourishing, healthy and long lives, be educated and knowledgeable , have sufficient accessibility to primary resources, social services required to acquire decent standard of living and be able to endure in the life of the community. So it can be said that in absence of these things, many choices won't be available to pursue and many significant opportunities of life remain unreachable. Nobody can assure the happiness of human beings and also choices and decisions which individuals would take in their lives concerning only themselves. Therefore, human development somehow targets to dispense the necessary condition to the vast number of people individually or collectively for upgrading their potentialities and leading a constructive and creative life. Undoubtedly, to save the multidimensionality of human wellness, construction of Human Development Index by Mahbub Ul Haq was a commendable step and subsequently UNDP presented it in its Human Development Reports. To represent the most basic capabilities three key dimensions were considered under its purview, longevity; measured through average life expectancy. Second, knowledge; measured through adult literacy and enrolment rate. Thirdly, standard of living; calculated through per capita income. It is basically a geometric mean of the above mentioned indices.

Indeed very popular and extensively used explanations of

human development were shaped back in the 1990s and yes currently the public have become more familiar with the concept. At the same time, HDI has been subjected to criticism in different research fields. As argued by Ram (1992); inequality has not been covered under HDI. The basic question remains unsolved that whether index is capable of promoting human good. More specifically attainments in health, education and decent living have not make any kind of improvement and advancement in the quality of life which was the centre - point of HDI's genesis. McGillivray 1991 statistically questioned the usefulness of HDI while assessing intercountry development scenarios and hinted that "HDI generally reveals little more than any of the pre-existing development indicators alone reveals". In addition to this he also rejected UNDP's claim that "the index ranks countries very differently from the way GNP per capita ranks them"(UNDP 1990) through his analysis and lastly concluded that "UNDP's index is yet another redundant composite development indicator"(1991).

Hicks 1997 pointed out that "no information about the intrapopulation inequalities among females or among males is yielded" through the so called human development index by definition and clarified that this concept is based upon "disaggregation by groups ,it is still at base an aggregative and not distributional index".

Srinivasan 1994 argued that "there is no evidence that HDR's have led countries to rethink their policies ,nor is there any convincing reason to expect it to happen". It is conceptually fragile and empirically defective and involves consequential issues of incomparability over time and space.

Desai 1991 argues for the necessary improvements required in the assessment of weighing of different components. Basically he criticized HDI's aggregation technique and how "HDI emphasizes positive freedoms rather than negative ones".

Kelley 1991 also talked about theoretical challenges related to selection of adequate standards for each index and "combining of indicators with weights that are both interpretable and defensible in a meaningful welfare sense". It may also be noted that there are various other important facets of development which haven't been mentioned in the index so far; social and cultural factors of society also need to be acknowledged (Kamdhar and Basak 2005)while discussing human development scenarios.

Human Development in context of 15 major states

Following UNDP's human development framework ,HDI has been constructed for 15 major states of India for 2017-18.For dimensions 1 and 2; "Long and Healthy life and Knowledge", same UNDP's indicators and criteria has been opted in the Indian context. Talking about 3rd dimension; "Decent standard of living", UNDP uses 'Gross National Income per capita' in US \$,but as deemed necessary, figures has been considered in national currency.

Sr.No	states	hdi 2017-18	ranks	PCNSDP 2019-20 at current price (2011-12 series)	ranks
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.648	11	169320	7
2	Assam	0.651	9	90123	13
3	Bihar	0.551	15	44230	15
4	Gujarat	0.698	7	212428	4
5	Haryana	0.724	5	240507	1
6	Karnataka	0.706	6	222002	2
7	Kerala	0.775	1	213041	3
8	Madhya Pradesh	0.616	13	103103	12
9	Maharashtra	0.75	2	196100	6
10	Orissa	0.649	10	103512	11
11	Punjab	0.738	3	154385	8
12	Rajasthan	0.638	12	115356	9
13	Tamil Nadu	0.738	4	206165	5
14	Uttar Pradesh	0.592	14	65666	14
15	West Bengal	0.674	8	113163	10

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Social Statistics Division (NSO);Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Table 1:Human Development Index and Per Capita Net State Domestic Product

Overall HDI score for India has been gradually improved from 2011-12 (0.635) to 2017-18 (0.672).Acknowledging the state of human development through above mentioned dimensions has unfolded many aspects of Indian states since 1991.Kerala's performance has been commendable throughout all decades with HDI (0.775)in 2017-18 and stood at first position. Maximum contribution in state's index has been made by health figures (0.849).Also states of Maharashtra ,Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Karnataka can be classified in "High HDI category" scoring between 0.700-0.799.Nine states namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal, Assam, Orissa , Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh ,Uttar Pradesh and Bihar can be classified in "Medium HDI category"(0.550-0.699).Bihar improved its performance since 2011 and hence shifted from low to medium category. Very interestingly it can be hinted that human development figures disclose a bit more information than state's per capita income status. Top rankers in income variable can be clearly seen performing at a good pace on HDI too. However considering the worst performers ;Uttar Pradesh and Bihar on HDI and Per capita Income variables, both states are found to be in perfect sync in their respective ranks. How clearly it defeated UNDP's claim about the index's distinct merit of ranking regions very differently from GNP. The analysis has brought our attention to the point that is this close examination of attainments whether through human development or income parameter adequate enough to exhibit overall development picture of states. Haryana being one of the richest and prosperous states, reporting ever increasing per capita income since 2011, provides vital insights to gauge upon the trickle-down effect of such 'good times'. Also the state represents northern India with much relatable socio economic

advancement and sociocultural determinants like adverse sex ratio, female infanticide, high preference for son and crippled social conditions of women. Hence some major disturbing deprivations need to be considered while discussing human development framework of the state.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Health and Nutrition: In Haryana, Health Index has shown improvement in 2017-18 (HDI) with 0.765 points with overall HDI 0.724; ranked 5 among 15 major states. At the same time talking within deprivation frame; dismal nutritional status unfolded a whole distinct case at ground level. Maternal and child health figures aren't amongst the best in the country. Millennium Development goals and SDGs 3 also laid stress on the above mentioned indicators of well-being. Maternal Mortality Ratio in Haryana (110) is higher than the national average (97) with lifetime risk of 0.28 per cent (SRS 2018-20). In Census 2011 Child Sex Ratio (834) was also lowest. 56.5 per cent pregnant women (15-49 years) are anaemic, a critical measure of poor nutrition. 60.6 per cent non-pregnant women (15-49 yrs.) also found to be anaemic (<12.0g/dl). Why has malnutrition been so high among women in Haryana? There could be numerous reasons. Seemingly, the stiff societal norms, biased and prejudicial practices, poor health seeking behaviour, and disproportionate expectations made on the time and energy of woman combine with customary determinants in ruining women's nutrition (Vulmiri, Urban 1996; Osmani, S.R. 1998). Also poverty, the most common factor appears could be equally important. In fact malnutrition can be considered both as a consequence and manifestation of poverty. Margaret Khalakdina (1979) argued that malnutrition is the most convincing reflector of poverty. "Large gaps remain in the genuine and economic integration of women." (Vision 2030, Govt. of Haryana).

Alarming facts come to the light in NFHS- 5, 70.4 per cent of children (age 6 - 59 months) are anaemic. 27.5 per cent children (6 - 59 months) are stunted (low height for age). "Despite high productivity in agriculture, malnutrition and other deprivations including challenges related to health and nutrition of children remain widespread" (Government of Haryana; Vision 2030). Haryana faces a grave threat. WHO claims poor nutrition as the most challenging menace to the world's health. Nearly 1/3 of all child deaths (developing countries) and 20 per cent of maternal deaths occur due to the underlying causes every year. Even though children survive despite being malnourished, they are susceptible to stunting, impaired mental growth, and may have gone through a few episodes of wasting till they reach age 5. Stunting leads to prolonged "cumulative effects" on health resulting from poor and insufficient diet as argued by De Onis (1993), WHO (1995), World Bank (2005) and Black (2013). In the future, all these factors may contribute to unemployability, huge medical bills, hampering individuals capacity to live a productive life. It has been clear that malnutrition leads to deprivation in one of the most fundamental and central aspects of well-being. Though Haryana has been so consistent in terms of economic and agricultural growth, it really falls behind if considering health deprivations. "Lack of progress in reducing the disadvantages of the deprived cannot be 'washed away' by

large advances no matter how large -made by the better off people" (UNDP, 1997).

Literacy and Employment: Literacy rate refers to proportion of literate individuals to total population (7 years and above) in 2020-21 was 88.1 percent (rural+urban) among males; while 73.5 per cent (rural+urban) among females (PLFS 2020-21). However, the stark difference between Kerala's 93.1 per cent literacy rate among females and Haryana's 73.5 literacy rate is worth noticing. In urban Haryana, on an average 50.4 per cent of 15 years and above females have not completed secondary education. Situation is still worse in rural areas where 64.7 per cent females didn't pursue studies up to Matric; whereas condition is relatively well for rural males (50.1 per cent) and urban males (38.3 per cent). Low enrolment and high dropout act as stumbling block for Haryanvi females which has most often resulted in high subservience and domesticity right from the childhood days.

Unemployment in the state has been far in excess of the national figures since 2017. Haryana ranked at 2nd place just after Kerala with highest unemployment (6.5 per cent) among males (rural+urban) and 4th highest unemployment (5.3 per cent) among females (rural+urban). It seems actually high in urban females (9.5 per cent); rising industrial growth and ever increasing per capita income do not seem compatible with employment generation in the state. 45 per cent growth can be noticed in the urban population from the year 2001-2011 (census 2011) but indeed this rapid paced urban sprawl comes with a price. Surprisingly, the all-time achiever on Human Development Index; Kerala performed really bad on the abovementioned deprivation indicator too. 15.1 per cent unemployment rate can be noticed among females (U+R) whereas 7.5 per cent in males (U+R).

Labour Force Participation Rate and Worker Population Ratio (15 years and above)

Multiple segments of market were evident in the study of Lewis (1954); agriculture, industry and service, Harris-Todaro model (1969); urban and rural and Fields (2009); formal and informal sector. Indian labour market can be statistically studied through disaggregated rural and urban figures. Haryana being an agrarian state is evident to majority of the households engaged in agricultural activities directly or indirectly. Both Worker Population Ratio and Labour Force Participation Rate is lower than the national figures. Labour Force includes both employed and unemployed individuals whereas Workforce refers to actually employed persons of total population. A huge gender gap can be noticed in both rural and urban areas. As per Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Annual Report, 2020-21, only 18.7 per cent women are employed as against 68.9 per cent of their male counterparts in rural Haryana whereas in urban areas the situation is no different; 35.8 percent women against 75.1 percent male. This could be directly linked with their level of autonomy, well-being, economic independence and social empowerment. Also the Labour force participation ratio is very less among females, 19.1 percent (Rural+Urban) as against 32.5 (Rural+Urban) among males.

Female employment is detrimental to both socio economic and socio cultural advancement particularly in Haryana sex imbalance is latently disrupting demographic figures of the state. Chowdhary (1993) has correctly argued that “ideology of work ethics based on high moral values and hard work has succeeded in making rural women accept and internalise the downgrading of their own contributions and the imposing of their subalternism”. Households with increased income or belonging to higher caste also tend to consciously demotivate Haryanvi female to take up gainful employment as this would lower their status in rural society .So basically being non-working is a matter of prestige for better of Haryanvi families. Women in the marginalised groups who are most often categorised as agriculture wage earners face utter gender division of labour and the advent of green revolution and mechanization technically threw them out of the labour market and statistically a little portion of female labour class has been leftover. Also they didn't come out to be a good substitute for their male counterparts due to their limited skills and educational qualifications which has further limited their opportunities to work. For much stagnation migrant labour from the adjoining states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar can also be held responsible.

PLFS Annual Report, 2020-21 also reveals that in non-agriculture sector, situation is equally worse in the state if access decent work conditions .Percentage distribution of regular salary and wage employees working without any written job contract is 64.9 (males) in rural areas and 72.9 (males) in urban areas. Figures are equally alarming for females. A huge portion of workforce is still not eligible for paid leave and social security benefit, 79.6 percent of rural woman workforce is socially unsecured.

Safety and security From 2010 to 2018 incidence of crimes has been significantly increased in the state as per reports from National Crime Records Bureau. Total IPC crimes nearly doubled posing a grave threat to the safety and security of individuals .Also crimes against children swelled up by 53.28 percent in 2018 with respect to 2015. It has been proven that victims of violence are the future potential perpetrators and hence catalysing the domino effect. The cases of crimes against women saw an uptick from 75.70 per cent per 1,00,000 female population in 2015 to 107.46 per cent in 2018 ; which is approximately double the national figures (58.79 per cent). According to National Crime Records Bureau, women routinely experience violence in different forms, at all stages starting with female infanticide. Those who survive to teen hood are most often malnourished and undereducated ,school dropouts, demanded and compelled to share an unequal load of household chores. Also married women are vulnerable to different forms of abuse including psychological and emotional humiliation. One third of married women have experienced spousal abuse. Indeed “masculinisation of spaces” is completely unrecognised and unquestioned in the state. Masculinisation of space refers to “an access to control over resources of various kinds-material, sociocultural, political and ideological” (Chowdhry 2014).Gender based violence has some serious consequences which are critically detrimental for their economic participation in both rural and urban areas. “It is important to recognise that before

any progress can be made in women's empowerment, women must feel safe within Haryana and ensure that crimes against women are speedily registered in a step in this direction(Govt. Of Haryana, Vision 2030).Various government initiatives like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao ,Aapki Beti Hamari Beti ,Ladli have been operational in the state but will only be effective when the so- called deeply penetrated ideological beliefs will undergo noticeable change.

CONCLUSION

This paper presents a preliminary effort to assess human development through deprivation perspective .An initial attempt has been made to understand that the human development index simply unveil average level of attainments through some selected variables. There is a need to look beyond and cautiously handle HDI with care .It has been highlighted by incorporating some appropriate deprivation indicators which are found to be significant in the context of Haryana.

It has been clear that in Haryana the trend of higher growth rate and ever increasing per capita income did not keep tune with some fundamental dimensions of well-being which are highly detrimental to human development. Also a questionable gap appears if comparing performance of the state in attainment indicators and deprivation indicators. Challenging HDI's modest contribution we conclude that the index is a redundant indicator of development at present.

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